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# Rural District of South Westmorland

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR  
1972

Stricklandgate House, P.O. Box 18, Kendal  
Telephone Number: Kendal 23502

KENDAL  
TITUS WILSON & SON LTD.  
1973



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## NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area of the Rural District in acres ... ..	151,007
Population at 1971 Census ... ..	20,632
Population (Registrar-General's mid year estimate)	21,260
Inhabited houses ... ..	7,994
Rateable Value ... ..	£766,912
Product of a Penny Rate ... ..	£7,415
Rate in the Pound levied ... ..	73½p
of which the County Rate was ... ..	59p

The Rural District of South Westmorland is a pleasant rolling countryside which rises from sea level to the south to nearly a thousand feet in the north. The shore-line extends for about 14 miles along the estuary of the River Kent, flat and marshy in the north, but with picturesque wooded slopes in the south.

The District is divided into three main valley areas by the two ridges of Scout Scar and Killington, which run north and south across the centre of the southern portion of Westmorland. On the west lie the Winster and Lyth valleys, in the middle lies the valley of the Kent, and on the extreme east lies the Lune Valley.

The dividing ridge of Scout Scar is sharp and barren, but the larger watershed which runs from Hutton Roof in the south to Whinfell in the north is rolling upland more suitable for agriculture. In the extreme north of the District is the high barrier of the central massif of Westmorland. These geographical features determine the natural lines of communication and therefore the spread of infectious disease.

The geology of the Rural District is sharply divided by the great fault which runs from Kendal in the north to Burton in the south-west and Kirkby Lonsdale in the south-east after branching near Crooklands. The country to the north-east of this fault consists of Kirkby Moor Flags in the Upper Ludlow Series of the Silurian System, with appreciable deposits of glacial drift. The rocks to the west of the fault are carboniferous limestones, with some of the Yoredale Series in the extreme south. The valleys contain some alluvial deposits and some glacial drift. These geological characteristics are of great significance in the supervision of water supplies, sewerage and occupational diseases as well as affecting the economics of the District.

The climate is mild and equable, though invigorating on the uplands. The valleys are sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds, and their southern aspects provide full access to sunshine. Temperature gradient inversions are occasional in spring and autumn but are soon dispelled in the mornings. The rainfall varies between 40 and 50 inches a year

and light falls of snow may be expected for one or two weeks in the late winter.

The District is mainly agricultural in character and many of the small local industries and crafts are ancillary to agriculture. There are also the following industries which provide much employment and bring prosperity to the villages: paper and woollen mills, stone and diatomaceous earth quarries, factories for making combs, mats, cardboard boxes, photographic materials, furniture, and tarmacadam, wood turning, tinned foods, and milk depôts.

In addition to these local industries the District receives seasonal tourist business at Arnside, Kirkby Lonsdale, and those northerly parts of the area which lie within the Lake District. The variety of these opportunities for local employment has stopped the drift from the countryside and has kept South Westmorland happily free from unemployment which is a most important factor in the maintenance of public health.

## STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office.	Whole or Part Time.	Other Offices.
Madge, F. T.	M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	Part	M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland
Ball, G. H.	F.R.S.H. C.S.I.J.B.	Chief Public Health Inspector to 31.12.72	Part	Building Surveyor Housing Manager
Aldersley, W. H.	M.A.P.H.I. C.S.I.J.B.	Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector	Whole	
Rae, F. E.	C.S.I.J.B. M.A.P.H.I.	Additional Public Health Inspector	Whole	
Jelley, W. C. N.	M.A.P.H.I.	Additional Public Health Inspector from 16.10.72	Whole	
Moss, H.	—	Clerk	Whole	—
Beveridge, K. A.	—	Clerk	Whole	—
Machell, B. M.	—	Clerk to Medical Officer of Health	Part	Clerk to M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland

### Staff Changes.

Mr. G. H. Ball retired on 31st December, 1972. He had been Chief Public Health Inspector for the past 23 years. I have greatly valued his wisdom and enthusiasm, as a colleague, throughout that time. We all wish him well in his retirement.

Mr. W. H. Aldersley, the Deputy Public Health Inspector, will succeed as Chief Public Health Inspector on 1st January, 1973.

Mr. F. E. Rae, Additional Public Health Inspector, will succeed as Deputy Public Health Inspector on 1st January, 1973.

Mr. W. C. N. Jelley was appointed Additional Public Health Inspector, and commenced duty on 16th October, 1972.

## VITAL STATISTICS

The following extracts are made from information supplied by the Registrar-General, with figures for last year for comparison.

Area of the District in acres    ..    ..    ..    151,007

	1971	1972
Estimated civilian population (mid year) ..	21,050	21,260
Live Births. Legitimate— males .. ..	130	125
females ..	115	108
Illegitimate— males .. ..	9	12
females ..	8	3
Total .. ..	262	248
Crude Rate per 1,000 population	12.4	11.7
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population .. .. ..	15.1	15.0
Birth Rate for England and Wales .. .. ..	16.0	14.8
Illegitimate Birth Rate per 1,000 live births .. ..	65	60
Still Births. Legitimate— males .. ..	1	1
females ..	1	1
Illegitimate— males .. ..	—	—
females ..	—	—
Total .. ..	2	2
Total (live and still) births ..	264	250
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. .. ..	8	8
Rate for England and Wales ..	12	12
Deaths. males .. .. ..	112	129
females .. .. ..	145	121
Total .. .. ..	257	250
Crude Rate per 1,000 population ..	12.2	11.8
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population	10.4	10.0
Rate for England and Wales ..	11.6	12.1



	1971	1972
Infantile Deaths (under 1 year)		
Total deaths under 1 year .. ..	3	5
Rate per 1,000 live births .. ..	11	20
Rate for England and Wales .. ..	18	17
Legitimate .. .. .	2	5
Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	8	21
Illegitimate .. .. .	1	—
Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	59	—
Neonatal Deaths (under 4 weeks) .. ..		
Total neonatal deaths .. ..	3	4
Rate per 1,000 live births .. ..	11	16
Rate for England and Wales .. ..	12	12
Early Neonatal Deaths (under 1 week)		
Total early neonatal deaths .. ..	3	4
Rate per 1,000 live births .. ..	11	16
Rate for England and Wales .. ..	10	10
Perinatal Mortality		
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week	5	6
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)		
births .. .. .	19	24
Rate for England and Wales .. ..	22	22
Maternal Mortality		
Total Deaths .. .. .	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)		
births .. .. .	—	—
Rate for England and Wales .. ..	0.17	0.16

Deaths from certain causes:—	1971.	1972.
Measles ... ..	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough ... ..	Nil	Nil
Cancer ... ..	45	40
The main causes of death were:—		
Heart Disease ... ..		106
Cancer ... ..		40
Cerebro Vascular disease ... ..		32

## **COMMENTARY ON THE VITAL STATISTICS.**

The published report on the 1971 Census records that 20,632 persons were counted as being present in the Rural District on the night of 25th/26th April, 1971. A factual count in an area such as ours, is influenced by the time of year when it is made, and be different from the normal resident population. The Registrar General's mid year estimate for the latter was 21,260.

Alongside the natural fecundity of the population and its residential attractiveness to immigrants, there has been a parallel increase in the number of houses. It is the long-term trend of population which is important for the planning of your future housing, water and sewerage requirements, and for the broader issues of the economic prosperity of your District.

### **Birth Rate.**

The local birth rate fluctuates slightly each year on either side of the national average.

### **Death Rate.**

Your corrected death rate was below the national average.

## **PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

The general incidence of disease can be assessed by the weekly number of new claims for sickness benefit at our local National Insurance office. A logarithmic graph of these figures shows a regular seasonal pattern over the years, and any variations are usually worth investigating. The general trend is some measure of the local community health.

I am most grateful to my colleagues in general practice, and in the hospital services, for their prompt help in notifying infectious diseases. The control of the more serious of these illnesses is one of the most important duties of our department.

The first quarter of 1972 needed much activity and vigilance during a smallpox alert, with an incident just over the Westmorland border. Many contacts were traced, vaccinated and kept under surveillance. No cases occurred in our Rural District.

The second quarter of the year saw measles spreading out from a sizeable epidemic in Kendal Borough. Most of our surrounding villages were affected, and there was quite a sharp local outbreak in Kirkby Lonsdale and the Lune Valley in May.

The latter half of the year was more peaceful, with measles gradually burning out around Milnthorpe and Heversham.

Immunisation against measles is still too recent to assess its results in our own locality. But we are hoping that it will eventually be as successful as the other immunisations against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, smallpox, poliomyelitis and tuberculosis.

### **Hospital and Ambulance Arrangements for Infectious Diseases.**

Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases is provided at Beaumont Hospital, Lancaster. Smallpox cases will be sent to the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital near Bury. Ambulance transport is provided for all cases by the Westmorland County Council, and is based in Kendal.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES TABLE.

DISEASE	Total	Ages										Admitted to Hospital	Deaths	
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-			45-
Measles .. ..	223	8	12	23	23	20	113	21	-	2	1	-	-	-
Dysentery .. ..	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever ..	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis (Post Infectious)	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Meningitis ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice ..	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	1	-	-
TOTAL .. ..	237	8	12	23	23	21	114	25	2	5	3	1	-	-

# TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respira- tory		Non-res- piratory		Respira- tory		Non-res- piratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 ..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
35 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	5	1	—	1	—	—	—	—

The number of tuberculosis patients on the register at the year end were:—

		1971.	1972.
Respiratory	...	22	23
Non-Respiratory	...	6	7
		—	—
		28	30
		—	—

## HOUSING.

Under the Housing Acts your Council has a duty to consider the general housing conditions in your district, to ascertain whether any are unfit for human habitation, and to assess the need for further houses. You have powers to deal with substandard houses, powers to provide new houses for all classes, and various powers and duties in the management of your Council's estates. Good housing conditions are an integral part of public health.

### **Present Housing Position.**

There were 7,994 inhabited houses at the end of the year. With an estimated population of 21,260 the average number of persons per house is 2.7, which is not a high figure. There were no cases of legal overcrowding within the strict definition of the Housing Act, which assumes that living rooms are used for sleeping purposes and that sexes may be segregated irrespective of age, health and family relationships.

### **General Progress of Slum Clearance.**

Westmorland as a whole made very encouraging progress in post-war slum clearance despite all the difficulties of the times. Since the campaign was resumed in 1948 well over 1,400 houses in the County have been dealt with by formal action under the Housing Acts. Most of them have been demolished or converted to trade use, but some of them have been reprieved by their owners undertaking to spend considerable money for comprehensive reconditioning up to modern standards.

In addition to those formal actions there have been a very creditable number of informal schemes for the renovation of substandard houses, either with the aid of improvement grants or entirely by private enterprise. The aim is to save a house whenever possible, but if it cannot be brought up to an acceptable standard of safety, decency and amenity, the sooner it is swept away the better.

In South Westmorland Rural District we successfully completed our 20 years postwar programme for dealing with 616 unfit houses. 326 of them were dealt with by formal condemnation action, and the remainder informally. Since then we have gone forward with the task of pruning out a few more decaying houses. The emphasis has



now shifted towards improving those which can be saved and brought up to modern standards.

Circular 92/69 required your Council to furnish an estimate of slum clearance for the next four years period 1970-73. As we had completed our post-war programme, we estimated that there will probably be only about 3 houses per year needing formal condemnation action, as most others will be saved by informal reconditioning. The figure cannot mean very much, but such is the short term outlook estimate for the statutory return.

The following paragraphs in this slum clearance section analyse the actions taken during the current year, and are mainly for record purposes and statutory returns.

### **Closing Orders.**

*Housing Act, 1957. Section 18.*

One closing order was made during the year, one order has not yet been complied with and is still on a house in occupation.

### **Undertakings not to use for Human Habitation.**

*Housing Act, 1957. Section 16.*

No formal undertaking was accepted by your Council during the year. At the year end 3 of these houses were still occupied.

### **Undertakings to Execute Works**

*Housing Act, 1957. Section 16.*

3 undertakings were offered during the year. The number outstanding at the year end was 8.

### **Demolition Orders.**

*Housing Act, 1957. Section 17.*

Two demolition orders were made during the year. At the year end there were no cases outstanding.

### **Clearance Areas.**

*Housing Act, 1957. Section 49.*

There were none outstanding and none envisaged.

### **Improvement Grants.**

If the process of natural decay is not allowed to go too far there are often opportunities for reconditioning to modern standards. Your Council offers considerable financial aid to owners for reconditioning houses.

Up to the end of the year 746 applications had been made for Discretionary Grants, and 638 were completed. Standard Grant applications totalled 495 of which 461 were completed.

### **Housing Building Programme.**

Since 1948 your Council built 930 houses and another 2,061 houses have been built by private enterprise.

Your Council completed no houses during the year, and private enterprise completed 157 in that same time. Conversions to existing houses produced 19 additional units.

Your Council have now commenced construction on the first phase of a scheme at Owlet Ash, Milnthorpe. 37 houses and 8 flats were under construction at the year end.

### **Estimated Requirements for New Houses**

The clamour for more new houses is still going on in South Westmorland. For Council houses alone there are 276 families on the waiting list. Private enterprise is still under pressure to build new houses and convert old buildings. I reckon that the total current demand is for about 150 additional houses, some of which may be provided by relets.

We are so near the re-organisation of Local Government in 1974, that it has now become irrelevant to draw much distinction between the location of houses within the Kendal Borough boundaries and the surrounding commuter belt in the southern parts of Westmorland. Supply and demand will sort it all out, but it seems likely that some of the villages will still have their own local needs and problems.

The facts of economic geography will go on regardless of Local Government re-organisation, and there are a lot of factors to take into consideration. I have mentioned some of them in this report because I believe that one cannot divorce public health from the ways in which our own folk keep a roof over their heads and bread and butter in their mouths.

### **The Special Needs for Old People.**

Both your Council and various charitable organizations have done quite a lot of good work in providing special houses for the elderly, but a lot more needs doing to keep pace with the increasing proportion of old people in the community.

Purpose-designed bungalows and ground-floor flats are still much needed, with low fittings, handrails, lever door-handles, easy gradient steps, and suchlike special aids for the elderly.



I especially welcomed your Council's completion, during 1971, of the 24 flatlets in the semi-dependency grouped premises at Burneside, with resident warden services provided in conjunction with the welfare department of the Westmorland County Council. These will be a great help to the elderly in our district, and may be a pattern of further provision in other villages if the local needs can be proved.

### **Housing Management.**

Your Council owned 1,013 houses at the year end, and housing management in the District is under the control of the Chief Public Health Inspector and Building Surveyor, an arrangement which is most satisfactory; it ensures that unsatisfactorily housed families, who are either in substandard dwellings or grossly overcrowded are not overlooked.

Selection of tenants for Council houses is done by a system which consists of an initial application form renewed every twelve months, and then the facts are checked when houses become available in the district required. A sub-committee chooses the tenants with the help of the local Councillors.

The rents of your Council houses vary from £2.65 to £3.65 per week, exclusive of rates, and the rateable values are between £54 and £76.

### **Rent Acts.**

No action was taken during the year and no rent book entries were reported to be irregular.

No disrepair certificates were issued during the year.

### **Qualification Certificates.**

The relevant legislation changed on 27th August, 1972. During the year 51 cases were dealt with under the Housing Finance Act, 1972 and the Housing Act, 1969.

### **Verminous Houses.**

Two cases required action during the year.

### **Housing Nuisances.**

During the year the following action was taken: 76 preliminary and no statutory notices were served. In no case was it necessary to seek an Abatement Order from the Court.

### **Dangerous Buildings.**

Action was taken during the year in eleven cases.

## **Dilapidated Buildings and Neglected Sites.**

*Public Health Act, 1961. Section 17.*

Action was taken in nine cases during the year, and a very worthwhile improvement is emerging.

## **Caravans.**

There is now excellent legislation for controlling caravan sites. We were able to work in efficient co-operation with both Westmorland County Planning Authority and the Lake District Planning Board for their respective areas within your Rural District. The result of that amicable combination of powers was the adoption of a very high standard of requirements for the siting, equipping and management of caravan sites.

By the end of the year, 114 caravan-site licences were in force. They covered a maximum total number of 2,278 caravans permitted on the sites, usually with seasonal restriction to between 1st March and 31st October in each year. 13 of those licences were for caravans for permanent habitation, a practice which we discourage unless there are very special reasons for such a substandard choice or necessity.

We still feel the lack of sufficient overnight stopping-places for touring caravans. With our District on the fringe of the National Park, and lying on the main traffic routes which our visitors use, we have to suffer a lot of mess and risk of disease from caravanners who stop overnight on our highway laybys. These places get very fouled for most of the summer.

## **Tented Camping.**

140 tents are authorised on certain licensed caravan sites, and there are now no tented sites specifically licensed under the Public Health Act.

A few other unlicensed camping sites are scattered throughout the area, and some nuisance arises from casual campers' improvised sanitary arrangements and refuse disposal. Water is taken from polluted becks at their own risk.

A more permanent seasonal camping site for Girl Guides has been established at Lindeth on your western boundary. I welcome this development because Girl Guides and Boy Scouts have always kept up the highest traditions of camping conduct, and they set a fine example to other people.

## WATER SUPPLIES.

The public water supplies are administered by the Lakes and Lune Water Board. Your Council continue to have a responsibility to check that the quality of the public water supplies is maintained safely for preserving the public health. Periodical tests are made on samples of water from consumers' taps, and some of the results are set out in Appendix A of this report.

Most of these public water supplies are treated by chemical sterilization, and some by additional methods, but no fluoride is added. The natural fluorine and radioactivity levels are low.

The principal source is upland surface water from the Lupton reservoirs, from which the distribution mains extend into the southerly parts of our District. There are also eight other smaller public local sources from springs, gravel beds and upland catchments, besides some supplementary bulk supplies abstracted from the Thirlmere and Haweswater aqueducts of Manchester Corporation Waterworks.

South Westmorland Rural District is fairly well watered as far as quantity is concerned. About 89% of the houses are now connected to some public water main. The remaining 11% have to rely on individual private systems from wells, springs, becks, and stored rain-water, which may not always yield as much water as the users would like.

The quality of the private water supplies is quite another problem. I suspect that many of them are unsatisfactory from time to time, particularly when wet weather affects their surface catchments and shallow wells. They are also vulnerable to foul drainage from new building developments uphill when private rights do not afford them full protection. I can do no more than warn the users that they drink the water at their own risk, have it tested for safety at suitable intervals, and boil it if they are still in doubt.

I have been most grateful for the help of the Engineer-Manager of the Lakes and Lune Water Board and his staff in dealing with the day-to-day questions which affect the public health. We also continue the excellent liaison with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, for the joint investigations and assessment of applications for grant-aided water supply schemes. I have been most grateful for the long-standing co-operation of the Ministry's Microbiologist and the other staff at the Regional Headquarters in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. It enables me to co-ordinate the safeguards to the public health as well as the agricultural interests.

**General Distribution.**

The Secretary of State requires me to state the number of houses and population in each of your parishes with water laid on and with water available from standpipes. The figures are set out in the table on an adjacent page.

# PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION.

Year ended 31st December, 1972:

Parish	Houses	Public Supply		Organised Private Supply		Other Private Supply	
		Laid on	Not Laid on	Laid on	Not Laid on	Laid on	Not Laid on
Arnside .....	837	833	—	—	—	4	—
Barbon .....	94	72	—	—	—	22	—
Beetham .....	607	606	—	—	—	—	1
Burton .....	401	401	—	—	—	—	—
Casterton .....	83	70	—	—	—	13	—
Crook .....	147	56	—	—	—	91	—
Crosthwaite ....	223	160	—	—	—	59	4
Dalton .....	28	27	—	—	—	1	—
Dillicar .....	25	—	—	—	—	22	3
Docker .....	15	—	—	—	—	14	1
Fawcett Forest..	13	—	—	—	—	13	—
Firbank .....	31	—	—	—	—	30	1
Grayrigg .....	56	36	—	—	—	20	—
Helsington ....	102	90	—	—	—	12	—
Heversham ....	216	216	—	—	—	—	—
Hincaster .....	46	46	—	—	—	—	—
Holme .....	391	391	—	—	—	—	—
Hugill .....	173	145	—	—	—	28	—
Hutton Roof....	55	47	—	—	—	8	—
Kentmere .....	40	—	—	—	—	40	—
Killington .....	40	1	—	—	—	39	—
Kirkby Lonsdale	598	543	—	44	—	11	—
Lambrigg .....	28	3	—	—	—	25	—
Levens .....	427	426	—	—	—	1	—
Longsleddale....	29	—	—	—	—	29	—
Lupton .....	56	48	—	—	—	8	—
Mansergh .....	29	—	—	11	—	18	—
Meathop & Ulpha	44	38	—	6	—	—	—
Middleton .....	44	—	—	—	—	44	—
Milnthorpe ....	597	597	—	—	—	—	—
Natland .....	162	162	—	—	—	—	—
Nether Staveley	231	214	—	—	—	17	—
New Hutton ....	67	35	—	—	—	32	—
Old Hutton ....	84	58	—	—	—	26	—
Over Staveley ..	212	200	—	—	—	12	—
Patton .....	16	—	—	—	—	16	—
Preston Patrick	127	115	—	—	—	12	—
Preston Richard	392	390	—	—	—	2	—
Scalthrowaterigg..	42	32	—	—	—	10	—
Sedgwick .....	100	98	—	—	—	2	—
Skelsmergh ....	88	49	—	—	—	39	—
Stainton .....	111	109	—	—	—	2	—
Strickland Ketel	388	265	—	90	—	33	—
Strickland Roger	135	85	—	30	—	19	1
Underbarrow ..	134	83	—	—	—	51	—
Whinfell .....	23	—	—	6	—	16	1
Whitwell & Selside	57	27	—	—	—	30	—
Witherslack ....	150	107	—	—	—	43	—
	7994	6881	—	187	—	914	12



## SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The safe disposal of human sewage and other foul drainage has been recognized for thousands of years as one of the most important ways of protecting the public health. It is still particularly true today in our rural areas, with typhoid and paratyphoid fevers, salmonella and dysentery infections, and many primitive insanitary practices never far from the local scene.

South Westmorland Rural District is served by 20 separate water systems and disposal works which deal with the foul drainage from the villages. The remainder of the District has to rely upon individual septic tanks, cesspools, or drainage into watercourses, and some of the more remote houses still retain privies, pails and earth-closets.

Your Council has pursued a progressive policy for extending the public sewerage systems to cope with the expanding development round most of the villages, and to improve or replace the existing sewage disposal works which were overloaded or worn out. Somewhat slower has been the bringing of organized public sewerage systems to villages and hamlets where more primitive conditions were becoming intolerable.

Even so, there will probably always be some settlements which cannot be linked up to the sewers of a larger place, and which do not justify a full-scale system of their own. Many of these can be safely served by group septic tanks where the soil is suitable for absorption of the effluent. Isolated houses must perforce depend on some such individual method of dealing with their foul drainage.

I am indebted to the Engineer for most of the facts set out in the sections of my report on sewage and public cleansing. I also record my appreciation of all his help and co-operation throughout the year.

### Sewage Disposal Works.

Some of the public sewage disposal works need special comment this year, but others are working reasonably satisfactorily.

Carr Bank is now within sight of having a public sewerage system. Installation was commenced at the end of March, 1969, on a three years contract. The sewage will be pumped to the Milnthorpe disposal works, picking up the Storth system on the way. This will allow extension to the Storth sewers, and the abandonment of the primitive outfall on to the foreshore at St. John's Cross.

Your Council's scheme for a public sewerage system for most of Natland Village with disposal of the sewage to the Kendal treatment

works, was under construction at the year end and nearing completion.

Heversham sewage disposal works are now overloaded with all the recent new housing development in that area, and the burden of farm effluents. Plans are being considered for abandonment of the Heversham works, in favour of pumping the sewage to the Milnthorpe works, and also taking in the Leasgill and Woodhouse Lane areas. It is proposed to do this in two phases, starting with the connection to the Milnthorpe works.

Burton urgently needs some remedy to cope with the present overloading of the disposal works, and to allow further residential development. Only planning policy is protecting the sewage disposal works from further overloading, as more and more people seek to develop private housing in Burton for its renaissance as a pleasant dormitory suburban village for both Lancaster and Kendal.

It is quite another matter how the sewage will be disposed of from both the present Burton village and its obvious potential expansion. Even today we no longer look within the narrow confines of traditional policy for having a part-time manned sewage works at the end of every little village. We have to think in wider terms, and look around to see where else could logically be joined together.

Consequently some preliminary plans have been made for a combined sewerage scheme to cope with Burton, Holme, Whasset, Hale and Beetham. The new Regional Water Authority will thus be able to effect a more speedy remedy to safeguard the public health risks of those localities.

Arnside sewage disposal is continuing its historical primitive estuary discharge, after little more than token treatment. Endmoor works are in need of replacement, and some others are well on their way. There are many years of work ahead to catch up with our needs, and keep pace with decay and development.

Crosthwaite is another area where a scheme has been prepared for the installation of a public sewerage system and small disposal works. It was almost ready to go to tender at the year end.

A small local scheme for Lupton was almost ready to go to tender also.

At Meathop there is need to replace the existing poor little treatment plant.

After local government reorganisation it is hoped that a rationalised group sewage scheme may solve the problems at Endmoor, Summerlands, Gatebeck and Crooklands.

Your Council are occasionally asked to take over small sewer and disposal layouts constructed by private developers of equally small housing estates. I view some of these with caution about the long-term maintenance, but it may be a lesser evil than having to sort out a host of quarrelling neighbours each trying to avoid paying a share of the cost when things go wrong: blocked communal drains bring out the less attractive elements in human nature, and the law is sadly cumbersome to effect a quick remedy.

### **Public Conveniences.**

Public conveniences are maintained in Arnside, Milnthorpe, Staveley and Kirkby Lonsdale. In all the conveniences constant supervision is required to deal with the public misuse to which they are subjected.

The Milnthorpe convenience is to be renovated, and a new convenience is planned for Burneside.



## **PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

### **Refuse Collection.**

The refuse collection service covers all except the most outlying parts in your District. In the more urbanised areas of the Kent and Lune valleys there is a weekly service. All pail-closets are also emptied weekly. Most of the remaining areas have a fortnightly collection.

When regular collections are not economical, it has been possible for the refuse lorries to make an occasional tour along certain defined routes to collect from isolated hamlets and farms, after prior notice to the residents. Not only has this service been much appreciated, but it has reduced the casual indiscriminate dumping of refuse in roadside pits and quarries.

### **Refuse Disposal.**

Disposal of the collected refuse is carried out at two sites within your Rural District. Controlled tipping is our aim, but the occasional shortage of covering material, and the type of waste to be covered, sometimes make this difficult. Much time has to be spent on the sites to keep them as free as possible from nuisance.

The main site at Slackhead in Beetham is the best tip in our area: it has been used for a couple of decades, and has capacity for many years yet. It is beginning to present certain drainage problems, which may restrict its life.

Our only other tip is at Hutton Roof, a short-term site where some disused stone quarries are being filled. Lack of sufficient suitable covering material, and the shape of the quarries, create seasonal difficulties with flies breeding, so this tip is temporarily closed for quite long periods between spring and autumn.

We really need to find some new tipping sites. This is a tedious, fractious quest, because no one relishes a refuse tip within sight or smell. Refuse disposal is one of civilisation's biggest headaches. It is becoming increasingly difficult to follow the archaeological traditions of rebuilding on top of it, or just losing it in out of the way places. I foresee the day when refuse disposal may be organised regionally, with long distance rail container haulage to places where land reclamation, or environmental restoration projects, favour a more positive attitude towards waste materials.

Negotiations are in progress to fill in the obsolete disused canal in the Sedgwick area. A similar filling with strictly controlled tipping of refuse was completed very satisfactorily by Kendal

Corporation some years ago, for over a mile of the canal bed throughout the built-up areas of the Borough, and out beyond the boundary into your own Rural District. I can commend the procedure.

## **FOOD HYGIENE**

### **General Powers.**

Your Council bear most of the statutory responsibility for safeguarding the public from foodborne disease. The main aim is directed towards securing proper and hygienic conditions for the manufacture, preparation and sale of food. The secondary aim is to trace and localise any outbreaks of disease which may occur in spite of preventive measures.

### **Precautions against Contamination.**

Food hygiene is steadily improving throughout your area. Public opinion is well ahead of the law and most traders are aware of the fact. The responsibility for safe food does not rest entirely with the trader as the housewife must play her part as well. Quite a lot of strange things happen to food between the shop counter and the dinner-plate, and the educational campaign has had to be carried into the home. Foodborne diseases, mild dysenteries and attacks of diarrhoea and vomiting are not infrequent in our homes and among our visitors. I am confident that higher standards will reduce these preventable diseases.

### **Food Trade Categories.**

The Secretary of State requires me to furnish certain details about the categories of food trade carried on during the year. They are set out in the adjacent table.

Regulation 16 relates to the requirement for providing wash-hand basins, and Regulation 15 relates to the requirements for providing facilities for washing food and equipment used in food businesses.

## Food Trade Categories

Category of Premises	Number	Number fitted to comply with Reg. 16	Number to which Reg. 19 Applies	Number fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Bakehouses .. .. .	8	8	8	8
Butchers .. .. .	12	12	12	12
Cafes and Snack Bars .. ..	28	28	28	28
Canteens (Schools and Industrial)	51	51	51	51
Confectioners .. .. .	6	6	6	6
Fish and Chip Shops .. ..	3	3	3	3
Fruiterers, Greengrocers and Fish-mongers .. .. .	6	6	6	6
Grocers and General Stores ..	54	54	54	54
Guest Houses and Bed and Breakfast Premises .. .. .	201	201	201	201
Hotels (Licensed & Unlicensed) ..	16	16	16	16
Licensed Premises (Other than Hotels) .. .. .	29	29	29	29
Motorway Stations .. ..	2	2	2	2
Clubs .. .. .	3	3	3	3

### Ice-Cream.

The following premises were registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:—

Manufacture by cold mix, storage and sale	...	...	2
Storage and sale only	...	...	98

### Prepared Meats.

*Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16.*

The number of premises on the Register for the preparation of sausages, potted meat, preserved meat and pickled food was 12.

### Liquid Eggs.

*The Liquid Egg (Pasteurization) Regulation, 1963.*

There are no egg pasteurization plants in the District.

### **Poultry Processing.**

There are no poultry processing premises in the District.

### **Milk Registrations.**

At the year end there were 61 registered distributors and seven registered dairies which were not dairy farms. No particular difficulties were met, and milk-round vehicles were generally maintained in good condition.

### **Pathogenic Organisms in Milk.**

Routine biological and other test results on 101 samples taken by various Authorities, from sources in our area, continued to be passed to me. Special attention was directed towards the organisms of brucella abortus in the above samples. None were found.

### **Slaughterhouses.**

Kendal public abattoir serves most of the District, and there are no private slaughterhouses in South Westmorland.

### **Condemnation of Other Foods.**

The following foodstuffs were condemned during the year:—

Tomato purée	...	36,835 lbs.
Fruit juice	...	6,198 lbs.
Frozen food	...	357 pkts.
Crumpets	...	1 pkt.

### **Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.**

The Secretary of State requires me to describe the current methods for the disposal of condemned food. In this District it is by burial at Slackhead tip. But the tomato purée and fruit juice was incinerated at the local factory where they were made.

## GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Your Council employs one Chief Public Health Inspector and two additional Inspectors. The duties connected with building inspections, housing management and planning legislation have been progressively increasing in recent years.

I record high tribute and appreciation of the work of the public health inspectors throughout the year.

### Offensive Trades.

There are no offensive trades in the District.

### Factories.

There are 91 factories on the Register. 59 inspections were made and 7 written notices were served. 2 references were made to H.M. Inspector and 6 were received from her. No prosecutions were required. 27 formal notices were complied with.

There are no basement bakehouses in the District.

2 outworkers were notified to your Council by factory owners in the clothing trade. No action was needed during the year.

The register of factories has been completely revised and cross-checking with H.M. Inspector carried out.

H.M. Inspector of Factories has been sent details of your Rural District's administration of the relevant sections of Parts I and VIII of the Factories Act, 1961.

### Factory Inspections.

Premises	Number of Premises	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	—	—	—	—
Factories not included in (1), in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority .. ..	91	59	7	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) .. ..	—	—	—	—
Total .. ..	91	59	7	—



## Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which Defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied.	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) . .	27	27	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) . .	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) . .	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) . .	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) . . . .	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient . . . .	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	6	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) . . . .	—	—	—	—	—
Total . . . .	34	34	—	—	—

### Offices and Shops.

*Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.*

This legislation makes provision for the safety, health and welfare of people employed in these premises. 130 visits were made during the year.

Fourteen written notices and 31 verbal notices were served for contraventions discovered. 2 accidents were investigated and reported to H.M. Inspector of Factories.

Type of Premises	Registered at year end	Inspected during year	Persons Employed
Offices .. .. .	53	43	165
Retail Shops .. .. .	64	47	217
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses ..	4	1	10
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens .. .. .	41	38	140
Fuel Storage Depots .. .. .	2	1	4
Totals .. .. .	164	130	536

### Common Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses in your District.

### Boarding Kennels.

*Animal Boarding Establishment Act, 1963.*

Five such places are on the register in your District. They were inspected and found to be satisfactory.

### Pest Control.

Your District is covered by the South Westmorland Joint Pest Control Board. Regular visits are made to your refuse tips and sewers as well as to scores of private properties in your District. I look upon the systematic destruction of rats and mice as a very helpful contribution towards safeguarding the public from all sorts of unpleasant diseases carried by those animals.



### **Clean Air.**

Informal action was taken about quarry dust at Sandside and Holme: also two cases of black smoke.

### **Rag Flock Act, 1954.**

There is one registration.

### **Compulsory Removals.**

It was not necessary during the year to deal with any cases requiring removal, but some were under observation.

Such cases are extremely distressing to deal with and the course of compulsory removal is reserved to meet the emergencies of a last resort when all other methods of help have failed. Sometimes it is very hard to decide what is really in the best interests of the patient.

### **Public Mortuary and Post-mortem Rooms.**

Your Council do not provide any public mortuaries or post-mortem rooms in the Rural District. Adequate facilities are available at the Westmorland County Hospital in Kendal by arrangement.

### **Crematorium**

Your Council were exploring the possibilities of establishing a crematorium in the district by co-operation with neighbouring local authorities. I do not see much hope of success before local government reorganisation.

### **Laboratory Service.**

The Public Health Laboratory Services at Preston and Carlisle provide the necessary facilities for most of our public health investigations.

# **APPENDIX A.** **Laboratory Examination of Public Water Supplies.**

Nature of Test.	Barbon	Burnside	Caster-ton	Garth Row	Gray-rigg	Kirkby Lonsdale	Lupton Raw	Lupton Treated	Staveley	Garnett Bridge
Pr. Coli count 27° Faecal coli/strep Date sampled last	0 28/11/72	0 5/5/62	0 28/11/72	7 1/7/69	90 17/8/72	0 28/11/72	0 6/1/62	0 28/11/72	0 7/11/72	0 24/1/072
Character	Clear	Clear	Colourless	Slightly Hazy	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear
Reaction	6.7	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.5	6.5	7.7	6.9	7.9	7.1
Ammonical N.	Nil	.02	Nil	.02	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid N.	.04	.02	.015	.02	.04	Nil	.06	.078	.005	.025
Total Solids.	100	27	92	98	154	128	124	140	140	44
Hard-Total	42	19	62	40	120	88	74	75	100	18
Carbonate	20	8	40	3	108	60	56	33	88	11
ness { Non-Carb.	22	11	52	37	86	74	62	73	70	7
Chlorides	12	5	9	5	7	12	10	11	7	6
Nitrates	.86	—	1.54	—	.12	1.71	1.67	1.7	.40	.09
Nitrites	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	—
O <sub>2</sub> Absorbed	.6	.5	.16	.56	2.44	.08	1.16	2.04	.08	.64
Heavy Metals	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rainfall, 24 hours	.70"	Nil	.35"	Nil	Nil	.29"	.35"	1.06"	Nil	Nil
Date Sampled	12/5/64	19/4/61	29/9/70	3/7/61	17/9/68	13/8/71	2/10/70	11/11/69	17/9/68	6/10/67
Laboratory	Preston	Carlisle	Preston	Carlisle	Preston	Preston	Preston	Preston	Preston	Preston

Chemical analyses are expressed in parts per million.



